United Nations E/CN.9/2016/NGO/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 January 2016

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-ninth session
11-15 April 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda[1]
General debate on national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 Development agenda"

Statement submitted by International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and AARP, HelpAge International, International Federation on Ageing, International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd., International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[1] E/CN.9/2016/1.
[2] The present statement is issued without formal editing.

15-17825 (E) 180116

Please recycle

Statement

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and organizations within the Stakeholder Group on Ageing appreciate the opportunity to address the agenda of the Commission on Population and Development on "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda". As an international non-governmental organization (NGO) whose membership base comprises governments, NGOs, industry, academia and individuals, the IFA is a leader in examining and synthesizing emerging trends and issues that target the ageing population. Together the IFA and the Stakeholder Group on Ageing represent the interests of 800 million older persons globally.

The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) creates an opportunity for governments to develop policies and programmes for their populations based on demographic trends and shifts. With the projected increase of people aged 60 years and over, according to The United Nations Population Division[1], to reach 2.1 billion by 2050, the United Nations has recognized the urgency of responding to older persons as the world's fastest growing population group. About 80 per cent of all older persons are currently living in low- and middle-income countries and over 23 per cent of the world's women are fifty years and above. Due to the scale and speed of population ageing, the CPD should devote time in its agenda to review population ageing and its impact on societies moving forward.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embeds Member State commitment to 'leave no one behind' and commits to Sustainable Development Goals and targets that must be inclusive of all age, social and economic groups. We recall the commitment that 'no goal or target be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups'.[2] While we welcome this commitment, there are a range of critical areas to be addressed in the indicators to measure achievement of the goals and targets, and to realise the promise of fully disaggregating data by sex, age, disability, location and other parameters identified. Improving the quality of data as well as its full disaggregation is imperative in determining how all goals will be achieved.

Disaggregation is more than just a technical discussion. It goes to the heart of the human rights approach to achieve universality and leave no one behind. Even though there are references to older people and age in the proposed targets, the approach to disaggregate by age throughout the life course must be especially robust and reliable and address any underlying assumptions that may lead to a misrepresentation of data. In order to strengthen the evidence associated with demographic shifts, all current and future population data sets must be assessed, developed and managed across the lifespan.

The CPD informs governments of the facts and implications of major demographic shifts. If the post-2015 development agenda is to be "inclusive of all", it is vital to prioritize the number, location, living conditions contributions and

[1] United Nations Population Division, World Population Ageing 2015 Highlights, ST/ESA/SER.A/368. Available at: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2015_Highlights.pdf.

[2] Synthesis Report of the Secretary General on the Posto-2015 Agenda.

needs of older people. Older persons must be given recognition and support to lead healthy and dignified lives to maximise their capacities, skills and abilities.

The WHO World Report on Ageing and Health[3] comprehensively and carefully analysed evidence on a global basis to address population ageing and associated demographic changes such as globalization and urbanization.

To leave no one behind means to be able to measure, monitor and refine policy to be inclusive of older persons through the principles of human rights, equity and non-discrimination. Gaps on age data must be filled and action taken to remove age caps on the data that is collected. These principles should be reaffirmed by the Commission on Population and Development for full compliance by all organizations of the United Nations system to ensure they are inclusive of all.

Specific suggestions on organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development are as follows:

1. The CPD should give attention to population ageing early on in its plenary, its informal consultation processes and reporting mechanisms, so that the existing knowledge can enlighten all work going forward relative to the SDGs and the Programme of Action of ICPD.

2. The CDP should ensure that there are representatives of civil society in the sessions of the Commission on Population Development that cover the lifespan.

3. The CPD should ensure that civil society organizations representing older persons are included in those invited to make oral interventions.

[3] World Health Organization (2015), World Report on Ageing and Health. Available at http://who.int/ageing/consulatation/en/.